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23 May 1967

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD****SUBJECT: NPIC's Capability to Exploit OXCART Materials**

1. OXCART aircraft are being deployed to KADENA (Okinawa) for use in acquiring high resolution photography of North Vietnam. This project, known as BLACK SHIELD, was approved by Highest Authority on 16 May 1967, to provide a capability to search for SSM's and associated equipment which may be introduced or deployed in North Vietnam. Authority exists for the use of any one of three camera systems (115A, 116A, or 118A) as frequently as may be necessary to fulfill the requirements of the USIB.

2. The Center has made a special, intensive study of its current capability to exploit the photography derived from these camera systems. The Center's findings are:

a. SSM's and associated equipment can be detected and identified without much technical mensuration support, but if the SSM's and associated equipment are canvas covered, crated, camouflaged, or partially hidden by vegetation, technical mensuration support may be critical in the identification of the type of missile or system component observed.

b. NPIC camera manuals approved by the NRO, have been disseminated to the community's various PI Centers on these three camera systems.

c. NPIC, as a result of camera validation tests, can conduct mensuration with a fairly high level of confidence, and with relatively little difficulty. In addition, the INS (Inertial Navigation System) tape can be processed and the corrected INS can be correlated with the film. This will enhance NPIC's ability to do accurate technical mensuration work. The INS tape will reflect the relative position of the OXCART and the ground below.

NRO review(s) completed.

NGA Review Completed.

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downgrading and  
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d. In summary, there are no insurmountable problems facing the Center which precludes timely and efficient exploitation of BLACK SHIELD photography.

3. Close contact is being maintained with OSA to ensure that NPIC is prepared to the fullest to exploit BLACK SHIELD photography upon arrival at NPIC. The attached cable sets forth the most recent steps taken to help insure such a capability.

ARTHUR C. LUNDAHL

Director

National Photographic Interpretation Center

Attachment:

Cable OUT 62030

Distribution:

Cy 1 - DDI  
2 - D/OSA  
3 - CIA/IAS  
4 - NPIC/OS  
5&6 - NPIC/ODIR

Series B: 1-D/R&D/OSA  
2-D/O/OSA

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